PULL HANDLE FOR INVALID WALKERS

TECHNICAL FIELD

Simply this device is mechanical in nature to aid loved ones or assistants in taking invalids on excursions

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Invalid walkers have been designed so far except for a very few, with a seat facing backwards and it is with great difficulty if not completely impossible to keep an outing in motion with existing rear facing handles.

Walkers already take advantage of lightweightness portability and easy storage especially when compared to a wheelchair or a scooter and cost is also a consideration.

For most invalids fatigue or balance problems would make placing the seat on the front of the walker or over a forward-facing basket would be impractical. Hence according to this invention a forward facing handle on an inexpensive generic walker would be invaluable to the invalid and their caretakers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A forward facing handl can help pull, push, turn in a circle if need be. It can be stored in an upright position and secured with a strip of hook and loop type fastener or other. It will not interfere with an unassisted walk nor will it add significant weight.

Friends and family or caretakers will fall in love with the new ability to assist when the invalid one is tired. This would be most noticeable and most appreciative during a long outing or when an appointment must be met, sometimes either can be mentally exhausting or taxing for either one.

As stated earlier merely moving the seat to the other side of the walker may exclude the need to have a handle at all but would increase the chance of a fall trying to turn the walker around or walking around it in order to sit.

Other features and objects of this invention will become apparent from the following description made with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Fig. 1-a is a perspective view of a "generic" type walker usually posessing a seat and two handles with brakes.

Fig. 1-b is the embodiment of a "cane" type adjustable (or telescoping) handle attached to a "generic" type walker.

Fig. 1-c is a perspective view and a blow-up of a "generic" adjuster button from Fig. 1-e .

Fig. 1-d is an endview of a "generic" adjuster button in the handle tubing of the blown up view from Fig. 1-c .

Fig. 1-e is a perspective exploded view of a "cane" type adjustable (or telescoping) handle.

Fig. 1-f is a perspective drawing of a possible attachment clamp.

Fig. 1-g is a blown-up perspective view of Fig. 1-f .

Fig. 1-h is a perspective view of a "U" type handle on a "generic" type walker.

Fig. 1-i is a perspective exploded view of a "fits-all" type extendable or expandable "U" type handle.

Fig. 1-j is a perspective view of the embodiment of a "T" type handle attached to a "generic" type walker.

Fig. 1-k is a perspective exploded view of a "T" type handle.

Fig. 1-l is a perspective drawing of a possible attachment clamp.

Fig. 1-m is a perspective exploded view showing details of a possible attachment clamp.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the embodiment of a "U" shaped handle according to this invention.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a split-foam grip to be slid over the "U" shaped handle with a 110° bend as in Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 is a perspective rear view of the "U" shaped handle with a 110° bend showing its adjustable width capabilities.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a protective plastic end cap to be inserted in the end of the metal tubing of all models of pull handle.

Fig. 6 is a side view of the same protective (safety) end cap.

Fig. 7 is a bottom view of the same protective end cap.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the embodiment of a single or "L" type handle with a wagon type pull on its' end according to this invention.

Fig. 9 is a top view of a common hose clamp.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the embodiment of a "T" type pull (as an alternative pull) according to this invention.

Fig. 11 is a top view of the embodiment of a swivel mount for a single or "L" type handle according to this invention.

Fig. 12 is a side view of the same swivel mount.

Fig. 13 is a common lock nut with nylon insert.

Fig. 14 is a common machine screw of the same thread and pitch; approx. 5 cm. long (2 inches).

Fig. 15 is a cutaway view of the "U" type handle and its' adjustable mechanism,

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of the same adjustable button,

Fig. 17 is a t p view of the same button,

Fig. 18 is a cross section of the tubing of both sides of the "U" handle (one slid over the other) with the same button,

Fig. 19 is a protective rubber cover for covering any exposed machine screw ends. Fig. 20 is a "TYPE 1" handle mount.

Fig. 21 is a side view of the same mount.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

An embodiment of this invention is described with reference to the accompanying drawings. First referring to Fig. 1 a common or generic walker having two handles (i), brakes also fastened at point (i), and having a seat (ii), four casters (v), some models have a forward facing horizontal bar (iv), others have only two vertical bars (iii), the only drawback with common walkers being that when an invalid is tired and sits one must stand between the invalids legs if one is to assist in moving walker or long waits must be endured. Fig. 2 is a "TYPE 1" handle of this invention (or an adjustable width version of a "U" shaped handle with an 80° bend (vi)) which is hinged at (ix). To attach first place two mounts as in Fig. 20 and find an unobstructed spot on the two vertical bars on said generic walker. After pressing them back into shape place a machine screw Fig. 14

through a hole (xxii) after first aligning it with the hole (xix) or (xxx) of the mount Fig. 20 its lf (perhaps also using a safety end Fig. 5 making sure to line up its' hole (xxiii) as well), then fasten using a nylon lock nut Fig. 13. Common washers can be used to reduce friction on either side of the tubing as well. Care should be taken that the lock nut is not too tight. Notice tube (x) is slid over tube (xi) and is ajusted to the proper width snapping the button as in Fig 15 or (xxi) into one of the holes (xii) which best suits the width of the walker. A split foam grip Fig. 3 is then slid over the tubing at point (viii) of Fig. 2.

Alternatively if only a horizontal bar is available on the generic walker an "L" handle "TYPE 2" is required. First a swivel mount Fig. 11 and Fig. 12 is attached on the horizontal bar (iv) using a common hose clamp Fig. 9 on both sides. Next align holes of mount(xxv) and of the handle (xvi) and possibly the insertion of a protective end Fig. 5 while aligning its' hole (xxiii) or (xxiv). Insert a machine screw Fig. 14 with a common washer in between the handle and the mount. Then fasten the machine screw with a nylon lock nut Fig. 13.

A protective rubber boot Fig. 19 may be placed over the exposed end of the machine screw of both handle designs. In addition the completed handle is held in an upward position when not in use by a strip of common hook and loop fastener or common snaps.